



To Honor
Saint Joseph

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To Honor Saint Joseph

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THE ESPOUSALS OF MARY & JOSEPH

“Mary his mother had been betrothed to
Joseph.” *St. Matthew, I, 18*

INTRODUCTION

AS Almighty God established Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob in Egypt, and made him governor of the land, in order that he might supply his people when they came to want the necessities of life—so when the time appointed to send His only Son upon earth had arrived, He chose another Joseph, of whom the first Joseph was the type, and, making him lord and chief of His house and goods, chose him as guardian of His greatest treasures. So, also, He united to him the Immaculate Virgin Mary, of whom was born, by the Holy Ghost, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who before men deigned to be reputed the son of Joseph, and was subject unto him.

On account of this sublime dignity which God conferred on His most faithful servant, the Church has always most highly honored and praised the most blessed Joseph, next to his spouse the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble.

And now that the Church is beset with enemies on every side . . . the Bishops of the whole Catholic world have most humbly implored the Sovereign Pontiff, in their name and in the name of all the faithful confided to their care, to declare St. Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church Therefore our most holy Lord, Pius IX, Pope, has been pleased to comply with the desires of the Prelates, and to commit to St. Joseph's powerful patronage himself and all the faithful, and has declared

St. Joseph Patron of the Catholic Church.

(From Decree of Congregation of Rites, 8th Dec., 1870.)

NOVENA IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH

Prayer

O glorious St. Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, to thee do we raise our hearts and hands to implore thy powerful intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death and the special favor we now implore (mention it).

O guardian of the Word Incarnate, we feel animated with confidence that thy prayers in our behalf will be graciously heard before the throne of God.

[Then say the following Versicle and Response seven times in honor of the seven sorrows and joys of St. Joseph]:

V. O glorious St. Joseph, through the love thou dost bear to Jesus Christ, and for the glory of His name;

R. Hear our prayers and obtain our petitions.

Prayer

O glorious St. Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, obtain for us pure, humble and charitable minds, and perfect resignation to the Divine will. Be our guide, father and model through life, that we may merit to die as thou didst in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

O St. Joseph, foster-father of our Lord

Jesus Christ and true spouse of Mary the Virgin, pray for us.

The faithful who devoutly take part in a public novena in honor of St. Joseph, Spouse of the B.V.M., in preparation for the Feast, may gain:

An indulgence of 7 years on any day.

A plenary indulgence, on condition of confession, Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, if they take part in the exercises of the novena for at least five days.

Those who perform such a novena privately at the aforesaid time, with the intention of so continuing for nine successive days, may gain:

An indulgence of 5 years once, on any day.

A plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, at the end of the novena, but where such devout exercises are held publicly, this indulgence can be gained only by those who are lawfully hindered from being present at the public exercises. (The Raccolta, No. 467).

AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH

All—O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to thy honor and give myself to thee, that thou mayest always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a great purity of heart, and a fervent love of the interior life. After thy example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Divine Heart of Jesus, and with the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And do thou, O blessed St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of thy holy death. Amen.



THE ANGEL REASSURES ST. JOSEPH

“Do not be afraid, Joseph, son of David, to take to thee Mary thy wife, for that which is begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

St. Matthew, I, 20

LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

*Approved for public and private recital by
His Holiness, Pope Pius X, March 18, 1909.*

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,

God the Son, Redeemer of the
world,

God, the Holy Ghost,

Holy Trinity one God,

Holy Mary,

Saint Joseph,

Renowned offspring of David,

Light of Patriarchs,

Spouse of the Mother of God,

Chaste guardian of the Virgin,

Foster-father of the Son of God,

Diligent protector of Christ,

Head of the Holy Family,

Joseph most just,

Joseph most chaste,

Joseph most prudent,

Joseph most strong,

Joseph most obedient,

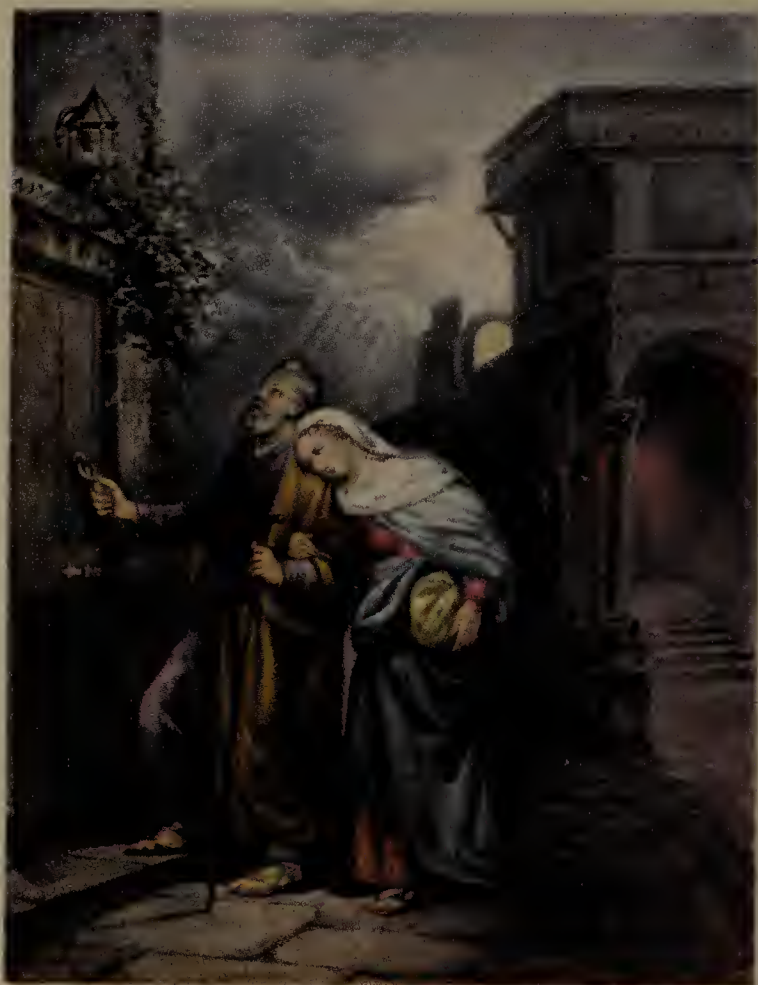
Joseph most faithful,

Mirror of patience,

Lover of poverty,

Have mercy
on us.

Pray for us.



THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

“And Joseph also went from Galilee out of the town of Nazareth into Judea to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem . . . to register, together with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child....” *St. Luke, II, 4, 5*

Model of artisans,
Glory of home life,
Guardian of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the wretched,
Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of holy Church,

} Pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins
of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins
of the world, graciously hear us, O
Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.

V. He made him lord of His house;

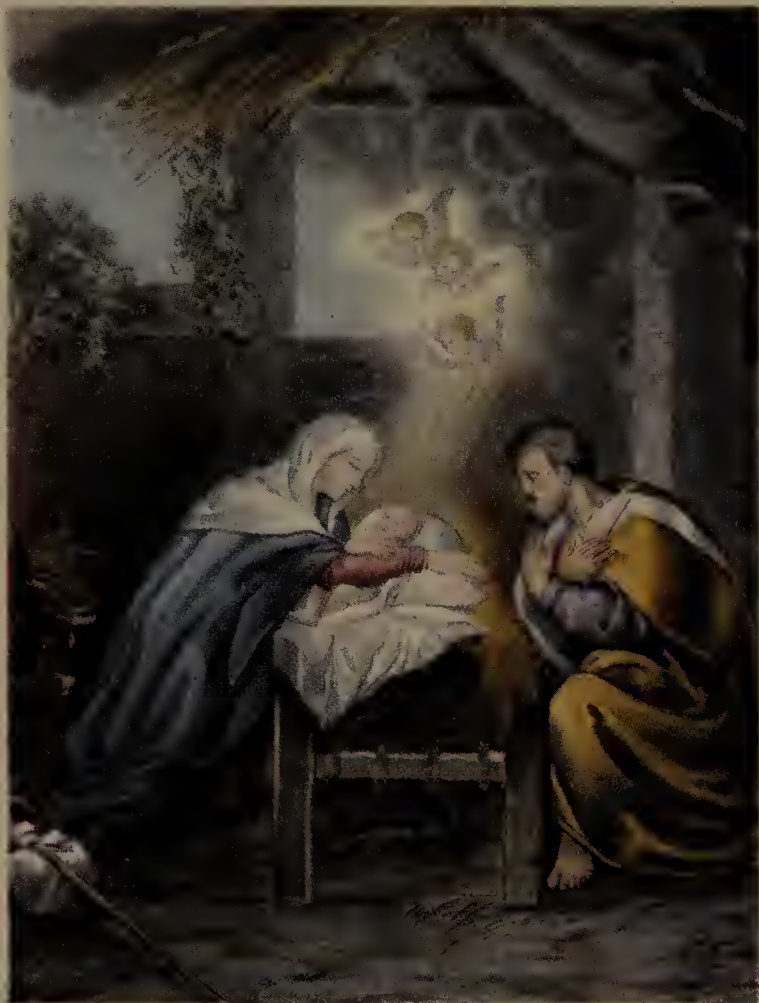
R. And ruler of all His possessions.

Let us pray

O God, Who in Thine unspeakable
Providence didst vouchsafe to choose
blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thine
own most holy Mother; grant, we beseech
Thee, that we may deserve to have him for
our intercessor in heaven, whom we rever-
ence as our defender on earth; Who livest
and reignest world without end. Amen.

An indulgence of 5 years.

A plenary indulgence under the usual condi-
tions, if this litany together with its versicle and
response, and the collect are recited daily for a
month. (The Raccolta, No. 462).



THE NATIVITY

“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” *St. Luke, II, 7*

MEMORARE TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember, O most pure Spouse of the Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, my beloved patron, that never hath it been heard that any one invoked thy patronage and sought thine aid without being comforted. Inspired by this confidence, I come to thee and fervently commend myself to thee. Ah, despise not my petition, dear foster-father of our Redeemer, but accept it graciously. Amen.

An indulgence of 500 days. (The Raccolta, No. 472).

PRAYER BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION

O blessed Joseph, how sweet and wonderful a privilege was thine, not only to see but to carry in thine arms, and to embrace with fatherly affection the only begotten Son of God, Whom so many kings and prophets desired to see, but did not see, may I, inspired by thy example and aided by thy patronage, with like feelings of love and reverence, embrace my Lord and Redeemer in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, so that when my life on earth is ended, I may merit to embrace Him eternally in heaven. Amen.



THE CIRCUMCISION

“And when eight days were fulfilled for his circumcision, his name was called Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.” *St. Luke, II, 21*

PRAYER FOR A HAPPY DEATH

O blessed Joseph, who didst yield thy last breath in the fond embrace of Jesus and Mary—when the seal of death shall close my career, come, holy father, with Jesus and Mary, to aid me and obtain for me this only solace which I ask for in that hour, to die encircled by their holy arms. Into your sacred hands, living and dying, I commend my soul, O Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Amen.

A PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

To Know One's Vocation In Life

O great St. Joseph, who wert so docile to the guidance of the Holy Ghost, obtain for me the grace to know what state of life Divine Providence destines for me. Do not suffer me to be deceived with regard to so important a choice, upon which depends my happiness in this world, and even my eternal salvation. Do thou obtain for me that, being enlightened to know the Divine Will and faithful in accomplishing it, I may embrace that state of life which God has destined for me, and which will lead me to a happy eternity. Amen.



THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

“They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.”

St. Luke, II, 22

H Y M N

Dear Guardian of Mary, dear nurse of her
Child!

Life's ways are full weary, the desert is
wild,

Bleak sands are all 'round us, no home
can we see;

Sweet Spouse of our Lady! we lean upon
thee.

For thou to the pilgrim art father and
guide,

And Jesus and Mary felt safe by thy side;

Ah! blessed St. Joseph, how safe shall I
be,

Sweet Spouse of our Lady! if thou art
with me.

O blessed St. Joseph! how great was thy
worth;

The one chosen shadow of God upon
earth!

The Father of Jesus—ah, then wilt thou be
Sweet Spouse of our Lady! a father to
me?

When the Treasures of God were unshel-
tered on earth,

Safe keeping was found for them both in
thy worth;

O Father of Jesus! be father to me,

Sweet Spouse of our Lady, and I will love
thee.



THE ANGEL WARNS ST. JOSEPH

“Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and remain there until I tell thee. For Herod will seek the child to destroy him.”

St. Matthew, II, 13

PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR OCTOBER

By Decree of His Holiness Leo XIII

To thee, O blessed Joseph, do we have recourse in our tribulation, and, having implored the help of thy thrice-holy Spouse, we confidently invoke thy patronage also. By that charity wherewith thou wast united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by that fatherly affection with which thou didst embrace the Child Jesus, we beseech thee and we humbly pray, that thou wouldst look graciously upon the inheritance which Jesus Christ hath purchased by His Blood, and assist us in our needs by thy power and strength. Most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ; keep far from us, most loving father, all blight of error and corruption; mercifully assist us from heaven, most mighty defender, in this our conflict with the powers of darkness; and, even as of old thou didst rescue the Child Jesus from the supreme peril of His life, so now defend God's holy Church from the snares

of the enemy and from all adversity; keep us one and all under thy continual protection, that we may be supported by thine example and thine assistance, may be enabled to lead a holy life, die a happy death and come at last to the possession of everlasting blessedness in heaven. Amen.

An indulgence of 3 years.

An indulgence of 7 years during the month of October, when said after the recitation of the Rosary.

A plenary indulgence once a month, on the usual conditions, for the daily recitation of this prayer. (The Raccolta, No. 476).

PRAYER FOR HOLY PURITY

Saint Joseph, father and guardian of virgins, into whose faithful keeping were entrusted Innocency itself, Christ Jesus, and Mary, the Virgin of virgins, I pray and beseech thee through Jesus and Mary, those pledges so dear to thee, to keep me from all uncleanness, and to grant that my mind may be untainted, my heart pure and my body chaste; help me always to serve Jesus and Mary in perfect chastity. Amen.

An indulgence of 3 years.

An indulgence of 7 years every day of March, also every Wednesday of the year.

A plenary indulgence, on the usual conditions, if this prayer is devoutly repeated every day for an entire month. (The Raccolta, No. 473).

THIRTY DAYS' PRAYER

To St. Joseph

IN HONOR OF THE THIRTY YEARS SPENT
WITH JESUS AND MARY

For Any Special Intention

V. Ever blessed and glorious Joseph, kind and indulgent father, and compassionate friend of all in sorrow, through that bitter grief with which thy heart was saturated when thou didst behold the sufferings of the Infant Saviour, and in prophetic view didst contemplate His most ignominious Passion and Death, take pity, I beseech thee, on me who am poor and needy; counsel me in my doubts, and console me in all my anxieties.

R. Thou art the good father and protector of orphans, the advocate of the defenceless, the patron of those who are in need and desolation. Do not, then, disregard the petition of thy poor child; my sins have drawn down upon me the just displeasure of my God, and hence I am surrounded with sorrows. To thee, O loving guardian of the poor neglected Family of Nazareth, do I flee for shelter and protection.

V. Listen, then, I entreat of thee, with a father's solicitude, to the earnest prayer of



THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

“So he arose, and took the child and his mother by night, and withdrew into Egypt.”

St. Matthew, II, 14

thy poor suppliant, and obtain for me the object of my petition.

R. I ask it by the infinite mercy of the eternal Son of God, which induced Him to assume our nature, and be born into this world of sorrow. I ask it by that humility which filled thy heart, when awed by the mystery wrought in thy Immaculate Spouse, thou didst regard thyself as unworthy of her.

V. I ask it by that weariness, solicitude, and suffering, which thou didst endure when thou soughtest in vain at the inns of Bethlehem a shelter for the Holy Virgin, and a birth-place for the Infant God, and, when being everywhere refused, thou wast obliged to consent that the Queen of Heaven should give birth to the world's Redeemer in a wretched stable.

R. I ask it by the painful blood-shedding thou didst witness at His Circumcision. I ask it by the sweetness and power of that sacred Name, JESUS, which thou didst confer on the adorable Infant.

V. I ask it by that mortal anguish inflicted on thee by the prophecy of Holy Simeon, which declared the Child Jesus and His Holy Mother to be the future victims of our sins and of their own great love for us.



THE HOLY FAMILY IN EGYPT

“He remained there until the death of Herod; that there might be fulfilled what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘Out of Egypt I called my son.’”

St. Matthew, II, 15

R. I ask it through that sorrow and anguish which filled thy soul, when the Angel declared to thee that the life of the Child Jesus was sought by His enemies, from whose impious design thou wast obliged to flee with Him and His Blessed Mother into Egypt.

V. I ask it by all the pains, fatigues and toils of that long and perilous journey. I ask it by all the sorrows thou didst endure when in Egypt, when sometimes thou wast unable, even by the sweat of thy brow, to procure daily food for thy poor Family.

R. I ask it by all thy solicitude to preserve the Sacred Child and His Immaculate Mother during thy second journey, when thou wast ordered to return to thy native country. I ask it by thy peaceful dwelling in Nazareth, in which so many joys and sorrows were mingled.

V. I ask it by thy extreme affliction, in being three days deprived of the company of the Adorable Child. I ask it by thy joy at finding Him in the Temple, and by the unspeakable consolation imparted to thee in the cottage of Nazareth, while living in the company of the Infant Jesus. I ask it by that wonderful condescension, by which He subjected Himself to thy will.

R. I ask it through that sorrowful foresight thou hadst continually in thy mind of

all the Infant Jesus was to suffer, when thou shouldst be no longer by His side.

V. I ask it by that painful contemplation, by which thou foresawest those Divine Infant Hands and Feet, now so active in serving thee, one day pierced with cruel nails; that Head which rested gently on thy breast, crowned with sharp thorns; that delicate Body which thou didst tenderly fold in thy mantle and press to thy heart, stripped, mangled, and extended on a Cross.

R. I ask it by that heroic sacrifice of thy will and best affections, by which thou didst offer up to the Eternal Father the last awful moment, when the God-Man was to expire for our salvation.

V. I ask it by that perfect love and conformity with which thou didst receive the Divine order to depart from this life, and from the company of Jesus and Mary. I ask it by that exceeding great joy which filled thy soul, when the Redeemer of the world, triumphant over death and hell, entered into the possession of His kingdom, and conducted thee also into it with especial honors.

R. I ask it through Mary's glorious Assumption, and through that endless bliss, which with her thou wilt eternally derive from the presence of God.

V. O good Father! I beseech thee, by all thy sufferings, sorrows, and joys, to hear me and obtain the grant of my earnest petitions. (*Here name them or reflect on them.*) Obtain for all those who have asked my prayers, all that is useful to them in the designs of God. And finally, my dear patron and father, be thou with me, and all who are dear to me, in our last moments, that we may eternally chant the praises of

JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH.

R. "A blameless life, St. Joseph, may we lead,
By thy kind patronage, from danger freed."



SORROWS AND JOYS OF ST. JOSEPH

1. O chaste Spouse of Mary most holy, glorious Saint Joseph, great was the trouble and anguish of thy heart when thou wast minded to put away privately thine inviolate Spouse, yet thy joy was unspeakable, when the surpassing mystery of the Incarnation was made known to thee by the Angel.

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy we beseech thee to comfort our souls, both now and in the sorrows of our final hour, with the joy of a good life and a holy



THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

“And his mother said to him, ‘Son, why hast thou done so to us? Behold, thy father and I have been seeking thee sorrowing.’”

St. Luke, II, 48

death after the pattern of thine own in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

2. O most blessed Patriarch, glorious Saint Joseph, who wast chosen to be the foster-father of the Word made flesh, thy sorrow at seeing the Child Jesus born in such poverty was suddenly changed into heavenly exultation when thou didst hear the angelic hymn, and didst behold the glories of that resplendent night.

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy, we implore thee to obtain for us the grace to pass over from life's pathway to hear the angelic songs of praise, and to rejoice in the shining splendor of celestial glory.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

3. O glorious Saint Joseph, thou who didst faithfully obey the law of God, thy heart was pierced at the sight of the Precious Blood that was shed by the Infant Saviour during His Circumcision, but the Name of Jesus gave thee new life and filled thee with quiet joy.

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy, obtain for us the grace to be freed from all sin during life, and to die rejoicing, with the holy Name of Jesus in our hearts and on our lips.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

4. O most faithful Saint, who didst



THE HOLY FAMILY AT NAZARETH

“And he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them.”

St. Luke, II, 51

share the mysteries of our Redemption, glorious Saint Joseph, the prophecy of Simeon touching the sufferings of Jesus and Mary caused thee to shudder with mortal dread, but at the same time filled thee with a blessed joy for the salvation and glorious resurrection which, he foretold, would be attained by countless souls.

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy, obtain for us that we may be of the number of those who, through the merits of Jesus and the intercession of Mary the Virgin Mother, are predestined to a glorious resurrection.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

5. O most watchful Guardian of the Incarnate Son of God, glorious Saint Joseph, what toil was thine in supporting and waiting upon the Son of the most high God, especially in the flight into Egypt! Yet at the same time, how thou didst rejoice to have near thee always the very God Himself, and to see the idols of the Egyptians fall prostrate to the ground before Him.

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy, obtain for us the grace of keeping ourselves in safety from the infernal tyrant, especially by flight from dangerous occasions; may every idol of earthly affection fall from our hearts; may we be wholly employed in serving Jesus and Mary, and for them alone may we live and happily die.



THE DEATH OF ST. JOSEPH

“Beloved of God and men, whose memory is
in benediction.” *Ecclesiasticus, XLV, 1*

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

6. O glorious Saint Joseph, an Angel on earth, thou didst marvel to see the King of Heaven obedient to thy commands, but thy consolation in bringing Jesus out of the land of Egypt was troubled by thy fear of Archelaus; nevertheless, being assured by the Angel, thou didst dwell in gladness at Nazareth with Jesus and Mary.

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy, obtain for us that our hearts may be delivered from harmful fears, that so we may rejoice in peace of conscience and may live in safety with Jesus and Mary, and, like unto thee, may die in their company.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

7. O glorious Saint Joseph, pattern of all holiness, when thou didst lose, through no fault of thine, the Child Jesus, thou didst seek Him sorrowing for the space of three days, until with great joy thou didst find Him again in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors.'

By this thy sorrow and this thy joy, we supplicate thee, with our hearts upon our lips, to keep us from ever having the misfortune to lose Jesus through mortal sin; but if this supreme misfortune should befall us, grant that we may seek Him with unceasing sorrow until we find Him again, ready to show us His great mercy, especially at the hour of death; that so we

may pass over to enjoy His presence in heaven, and there, in company with thee, may we sing the praises of His divine mercy forever.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be.

Ant. And Jesus Himself was about the age of thirty years, being (as it was supposed) the Son of Joseph.

V. Pray for us, O holy Joseph,

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

O God, Who in Thine ineffable Providence didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the Spouse of Thy most holy Mother; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may deserve to have him as our intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate on earth as our protector: Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

An indulgence of 5 years.

A plenary indulgence, if these prayers are repeated daily for an entire month.

(The Raccolta, No. 470).

PRAYER FOR UNIVERSAL CHURCH

O glorious Saint Joseph, chosen by God to be the foster-father of Jesus, the chaste spouse of Mary ever Virgin, and the head

of the Holy Family and then appointed by the Vicar of Christ to be the heavenly patron and defender of the Church founded by Jesus, most confidently do I implore at this moment thy powerful aid for all the Church militant on earth. Do thou shield with thy truly paternal love especially the Supreme Pontiff and all the Bishops and priests who are in union with the Holy See of Peter. Be the defender of all who labor for souls amidst the trials and tribulations of this life, and cause all the peoples of the earth to submit themselves in a docile spirit to that Church which is the ark of salvation for all men.

Be pleased also, dear Saint Joseph, to accept this dedication of myself which I now make unto thee. I dedicate myself wholly to thee, that thou mayest ever be my father, my patron and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me great purity of heart and a fervent devotion to the interior life. Grant that, following thine example, I may direct all my actions to the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the immaculate heart of Mary and in union with thee. Finally pray for me that I may be a partaker in the peace and joy which were thine at the hour of thy holy death. Amen.

An indulgence of 500 days.
(The Raccolta, No. 474).



The Josephite Fathers